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CHESTERTON (CAMBS.)

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

For the Year

1925

BY

H. R. COOMBES,

Medical Officer of Health.

Cambridge :
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Chesterton Rural District Council.

SURVEY REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

I beg to communicate my Report for the year 1925.

The Ministry of Health have suggested that full survey reports should be made once in five years and that the report for 1925 be a Survey Report.

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area 78,771 acres.	Population Census 1921 23,805.
Inhabited Houses 6,250.	,, estimated 1925 24,120.
Rateable Value £180,013.	Assessable Value £124,361.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £518.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

The thirty-seven parishes constituting the Chesterton Rural District are grouped round the Urban District of Cambridge.

Those on the E.S.E side of the Rhee and Cam are more closely grouped than those on the W.N.W. side and are healthily situated on the chalk at a somewhat higher elevation than the latter, with the exception of Harlton and Grantchester, which are situated on chalk outliers; those on the W.N.W. side rest on the gault, Cottenham on the N. is situated partly on the gravel and greensand. and Oakington partly on clay and greensand. All along the Cam valley springs arise from between the base of the lower chalk and gault, affording with the general water-bearing stratum an abundant and excellent supply of water, where not polluted by local circumstances. The water on the W.N.W. side may be obtained by piercing through the gault into the greensand, or by utilising the patches of gravels of various origins which are dotted about the district. These unfortunately are too liable to pollution by the local circumstances, with certain exceptions, to afford a safe supply. In certain of the parishes in the N. there are extensive Fen lands.

The chief industries are Agriculture, Fruit-growing and Preserve manufacture, the latter giving employment to a number of workers throughout the year. Another industry is the manufacture of cement from the chalk marl.

2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total.	Males.	Females.	
Births 358	Legitimate	341	169	172	Birth Rate.
	Illegitimate	17	8	9	14·8
			England and Wales		18·3
Deaths Belonging		309	153	146	Death Rates.
					12·8 crude.
					9·2 corrected.
			England and Wales		12·2

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth,
from Sepsis . 2. other causes —

The Number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 24.
(Legitimate 21. Illegitimate 3.)

The ratio per 1,000 births being 58, as against a ratio of 75 for England and Wales.

Deaths from	Measles (all ages)	4
,,	Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	1
,,	Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) ...	1
,,	Cancer	49
,,	Tuberculosis. (Pulmonary) ...	14
,,	Influenza	5

The average number of deaths per annum from Pulmonary Tuberculosis has declined in the district

from	28·8	1911—1915.
to	23·2	1916—1920.
and to	14·6	1921—1925.

With few exceptions the deaths from Tuberculosis among persons belonging to this district were cases which had been notified.

A Parochial Register of all notified cases is kept and periodically checked for deaths, removals etc. This Register shows that on 31st December, 1925, there were 414 notified cases of Tuberculosis in the district of which 323 are Pulmonary cases.

3.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1925.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified 1925.	At Ages —Years.												Removed to Hospital.		Total Deaths.
		1	1—	2—	3—	4	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—	Oakington.	Other Hospitals.	
Diphtheria	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Scarlet Fever	26	...	...	...	2	2	9	7	1	4	1	...	...	16	...	...
Enteric Fever	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	1	1	...	4	...
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia	23	...	...	3	...	...	2	2	2	10	1	2	1	...	4	16
Erysipelas	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	2	...	1	...
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	1	...	...	3	1
Poliomyelits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis Pulmonary ...	38	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	2	15	10	5	1	...	...	14
Tuberculosis Non-pulmonary	11	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	1	4	2	...	...	...	...	4
Totals	116	...	...	3	3	3	17	13	6	38	17	11	5	16	13	37

Of the 38 Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 25 were Males and 13 were Females.

Of the 11 Cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 5 were Males and 6 were Females.

4.—CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

26 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during 1925, as compared with 39 in 1924, 39 in 1923, 16 in 1922, 46 in 1921, 92 in 1920 and 73 in 1919.

Ten of these cases occurred from October to December at Harston, the disease being spread by mild cases which were not notified until the peeling stage.

Four cases occurred in one family at Great Shelford all notified on the same day. These cases were all removed and no further case was notified in this village during the year.

Two cases were notified at the same time in one family at Grantchester, and two others occurred in one family at Hauxton.

The other eight cases occurred in eight separate parishes.

It is worthy of note that although the disease broke out in eleven separate parishes in only one parish, namely Harston, did the disease spread beyond the first household attacked.

16 of these cases were removed for Isolation and the usual precautionary measures were taken.

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever per 1000 persons, living in this district, was 1·1 as compared with 2·3 for England and Wales.

It is interesting to compare the number of cases and deaths from Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria during the last fifteen years.

Cases notified (Deaths in brackets.)

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.
1911—1915	763 (7)	214 (25)
1916—1920	227 (6)	72 (6)
1921—1925	166 (1)	9 Nil.

Only 1 case of Diptheria was notified during 1925, as compared with 6 in 1924, 13 in 1923, 5 in 1922, 20 in 1921, 16 in 1920, 18 in 1919 and an average of 29 for the Ten years ended 1919. This case which was imported from London was removed, and no further case occurred during the year.

5.—NURSING AND HOSPITALS.

The County and District Nursing Association provides Nurses for General Nursing.

The Midwives Act is administrated by the County Council.

The County Council make grants with regard to maternity and child welfare to the two voluntary centres, one at Great Shelford and one at Cottenham.

The scheme of the County Council for the treatment of Venereal Disease with a centre at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge has been in operation since 1917.

The Council has an Isolation Hospital at Oakington which has since 1906 met the requirements of the District so far as the Isolation of cases of Scarlet Fever are concerned.

Cases of other diseases are removed to the Cambridge Infectious Diseases Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Ambulance Facilities. The Council has a Motor Ambulance for the removal of Infectious cases, a new chassis has been provided during the year.

6.—LABORATORY WORK AND ADOPTIVE ACTS.

Pathological and Bacteriological work is now carried out by Dr. H. Harvey, of 6, Post Office Terrace, Cambridge. Medical Practitioners are supplied with diphtheria antitoxin when required.

Adoptive Acts. Bye-laws with respect to new Streets and Buildings for the whole district were made by the District Council and allowed by the Ministry of Health on 20th December, 1919.

During the year 1910 Bye-laws were made and allowed by the Local Government Board for securing decent lodgings and accommodation of persons engaged in the Picking of Fruit and Vegetables in the Rural District of Chesterton.

The other Adoptive Acts in force are :—The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act 1890, and so much of Part III of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, as applies to a Rural District.

For the parishes of Cherryhinton, Grantchester, Trumpington, Fen Ditton and Fulbourn, certain sections of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907, are in force. Full particulars of the sections in force are given in the report for the year 1909.

There are no Bye-laws with regard to tents, vans, sheds etc. The advisability of adopting such Bye-laws might well be considered in view of the tendency to use temporary dwellings owing to the shortage of houses.

During the year 1921, the Ministry of Health granted Urban powers to the Council with regard to Slaughter Houses and Bye-laws in this connection have been submitted to the Ministry of Health and approved. Clause 9 B, of the Model Bye-laws requiring the use of a "Humane Killer" is included in these Bye-laws.

7.—SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

SANITARY INSPECTION.

REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR FROM JANUARY 1st TO DECEMBER 31st, 1925.

1.	Complaints received	101
2.	Inspections recorded	925
3.	Notices served (Statutory)	20
4.	Informal Notices	183
5.	Legal proceedings	3
6.	Slaughter-houses inspected (6 Licensed, 19 Registered)	25
7.	Bakehouses inspected...	32
8.	Houses inspected under the Housing Act	56
9.	,, placed in habitable repair	22
10.	,, closed	20
11.	,, Scheduled for closing order	Nil.
12.	,, Demolished	Nil.
13.	,, overcrowding abated	24
14.	Cases removed to Hospitals	29
15.	Houses disinfected	46
16.	Certificates granted under Sec. 6 of the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878	184
17.	Improved Water Supplies to existing houses	25

18.	Improved closet accommodation provided	9
19.	House drains, new laid or improved	10
20.	Samples of Water taken	33
21.	Sundry Nuisances abated	25

F. BUNNETT, C.R.S.I.,

Sanitary Inspectar.

The 25 Slaughter-houses in the District have been inspected from time to time. 6 of these are subject to Annual Licensing the other 19 being Registered.

2 New Slaughter-houses have been Licensed during the year.

1 Existing Slaughter-house has been reconstructed.

Legal proceedings were taken against one butcher for slaughtering on unregistered premises and noncompliance with the Meat Regulations as to giving notice of slaughter. The defendant was fined for each offence.

In 1920 the number of Slaughter-houses in use was 16, none licensed.

The 32 bakehouses have been inspected as usual and circular letters are sent twice yearly reminding the occupiers of the limewashing and cleansing required by the Factory and Workshop Act.

The Council have a Steam Disinfector at the Isolation Hospital. where clothing, bedding etc., is disinfected.

Houses are disinfected by means of Formaldehyde, Gas & Sprayers,

The only offensive trade in the area is one small Knackery which is situated in an isolated spot.

There are no Common Lodging Houses or underground sleeping rooms.

MILK AND DAIRIES (Amendment) ACT, 1922.

Regulations under the Dairies', Cowsheds' and Milkshops' Order are in operation in the District and copies have been supplied to all Registered Cowkeepers.

Care is exercised to prevent any person from an infected house working in connection with any milk business.

Copies of the Board of Agriculture's leaflet on the construction of Cowsheds are distributed, and advice is offered to persons constructing new cowsheds or improving existing buildings.

Many of the cows are kept in open sheds and most of the cows are only kept in sheds during the severe weather.

During the year under review, three cowsheds have been improved.

FACTORIES.—There are at present recorded five non-textile factories in the district, where more than 40 persons are employed, viz. 1 Jam Factory, 2 Laundries and 2 Cement Works : these have all been examined with the regard to the provision of escape in case of fire.

WORKSHOPS.—Inspection of Workshops in the District have been made during the year, and the usual lists of Outworkers have been received.

WATER SUPPLY.

A new Public Well has been bored to the greensand at Milton near the Council Houses, and it has been decided to provide a new bored well at Horningsea.

The water from the Public Pump at Bottisham Locks, Waterbeach, has been unsatisfactory and the question of improving the supply is under consideration.

The Council decided that a supply was needed for part of the Parish of Newton, and after the matter was considered by a Parish Meeting, the Council were notified that the owners would provide a supply,

The question of obtaining a supply of water from the greensand for the Parish of Comberton is under consideration.

Of the 37 Parishes in the district the thirty largest villages representing 94 per cent of the population of the district, are now provided with public water supplies.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The only Sewage Disposal works in the district, are the Sewage Farm for the Borough of Cambridge situated at Milton, and the Sewage Disposal Works at Histon Factory.

In the larger villages, Cottenham, Willingham, Waterbeach, Great Shelford, Harston and Histon, the surface water drains convey house drainage to the water courses.

The comparatively small difference between the general level of the ground and the level of the water in the water courses, will generally make any system of sewage disposal for these villages very expensive owing to the need for pumping the sewage to a sufficient height to provide for proper treatment before its discharge into the water courses.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The type of closet in use in this district generally, is the pail closet. A number of the larger houses have water-closets connected to cesspools. The old objectionable type of pit privy which used to be very prevalent in this district has to a very large extent been replaced by pail-closets.

The Sanitary Inspector's records show that 10 per cent of the houses in this District have Water-closets and that the number of houses having Pail-closets has increased to 77 per cent of the total houses, while the number having pit-privies has been reduced to 12 per cent.

SCAVENGING.

With the exception of a scheme for the cleansing of earth-closets in the parish of Waterbeach there is no system of public removal of house refuse, or the cleansing of earth-closets, privies, ashpits or cesspools.

In most of the villages the majority of occupiers have sufficient garden ground on which waste matter may with care be disposed of without nuisance, but in some parts of the more populous villages the accumulation of waste matter on a limited space near the dwellings, which are situated in confined areas, calls for the careful consideration of the Council.

8.—PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The Staff consists of one part time Medical Officer of Health and one Sanitary Inspector, who is also the Officer designated under the Housing Acts. The Sanitary Inspector holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute (by examination).

Dr. Ellis of Cottenham is Medical Attendant at the Isolation Hospital (part time). The Matron, Porter and one Maid form the Permanent Staff at the Hospital.

9.—HOUSING.

New Houses erected during the year.

(a) Total 184.

(b) As part of Housing Scheme 50 in nine parishes.

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses.

(1)	Total Number of Houses inspected	39
(2)	Number inspected and recorded under the Housing (inspection of district) Regulations	39
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be unfit for human habitation during 1925	26
(4)	Number not in all respects reasonably fit	13

2. Remedy of defects without formal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 13

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning &c., Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were sent requiring repairs —

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit

(a) by Owners —

(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners —

(3) Number of houses in respect of which closing orders became operative in pursuance of declaration of owners of intention to close —

B.—Proceedings under the Public Health Act.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were sent requiring defects to be remedied —

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied

(a) by Owners —

(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners —

C.—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning Act, 1909.

(1)	Representation for closing order	26
(2)	Number of houses in respect of which closing orders were made	26
(3)	Number of houses in respect of which closing orders were determined	9
(4)	Number of houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	—
(5)	Number of houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	—

HOUSING SCHEME.

SUBSIDIES FOR PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

Under the Housing Act of 1923, the Council have agreed to make up the Lump sum equivalent of £6 per year, for 20 years, offered by the Government, to £80; and up to the end of 1924, under this scheme 81 applications were approved, and 25 houses were completed. During 1925, 94 applications were approved and 82 houses completed.

A further 8 houses have been erected under the 1924 Act, for which an Annual Grant will be payable, these houses will be subject to special conditions. This makes a total of 115 cottages completed by private enterprise with the assistance of the Subsidy, a further 25 are in course of construction and it is confidently expected that before the end of 1926 over 200 houses will be erected by private persons under the scheme.

HOUSES ERECTED BY THE DISTRICT COUNCIL.

During 1925 good progress has been made with the Council's scheme for the erection of working class dwellings.

A Scheme for 216 houses in 32 parishes has been approved. Contracts have been let for 124 houses in 22 parishes and 50 houses were completed by the end of the year, 62 others are in course of erection. (For details in Parishes see Table on next page).

By May 1926, it is expected that 100 houses will be completed by the District Council, in addition to the 100 already erected under the 1919 Act.

The applications for houses from persons belonging to the District exceed 500.

H. R. COOMBES,

Medical Officer of Health.

HOUSING TABLE.

PARISHES.	District Council's Schemes. No. of Houses. Built under 1919 Act.	Proposed to be built under 1924 Act.	Completed by District Council in 1925 under 1924 Act.	Private Enterprise. Subsidy Houses Erected under 1923 Act.
Barton	6	8	...	2
Cherryhinton	...	10	...	5
Childerley	...	...	...	...
Comberton	4	8	8	2
Coton	6	4	...	1
Cottenham	...	14	4	3
Dry Drayton	...	4	...	...
Fen Ditton	...	10	6	10
Fulbourn	...	12	4	...
Girton	...	8	...	4
Grantchester	4	8	...	2
Harlton	4	4	4	...
Harston	6	8	8	2
Haslingfield	4	6	...	...
Hauxton	...	2	...	3
Histon	...	2	2	36
Horningsea	6	2	...	2
Impington	12	10	...	...
Landbeach	...	4	4	...
Longstanton A. S. ...	...	4	2	...
Longstanton S. M. ...	...	4	...	...
Madingley	...	...	...	...
Milton	6	6	...	...
Newton	4	...	...	...
Oakington	6	4	...	1
Rampton	...	4	2	...
Shelford, Gt.	...	16	...	17
Shelford, Lt.	4	4	...	...
Stapleford	...	4	...	1
Stow-cum-Quy	...	...	...	...
Teversham	...	6	6	1
Trumpington	...	4	...	17
Waterbeach	12	12	...	...
Westwick	...	...	...	...
Wilbraham, Gt.	6	2	...	...
Wilbraham, Lt.	...	2	...	...
Willingham	10	20	...	6
TOTAL	100	216	50	115

F. BUNNETT,

Housing Officer.